

REMARKS

In paragraph 4 of the final Action, claims 7 and 9-16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sato et al. in view of Edmonds.

In view of the rejection, claim 7 has been amended such that said sheet determining means includes means for automatically reading a mark on the sheet to determine the sheet. Since part of claim 7 was deleted in the amendment, the amendment does not introduce new issue.

Namely, in claim 7, the image forming system comprises an attachment including one sheet feeding unit and image reading means, and an image forming apparatus main unit attached to the attachment. The sheet determining means formed in the image forming apparatus main unit or attachment includes means for automatically reading a mark on the sheet to determine the sheet.

On page 5 of the final Action, it was held that "Sato does not disclose expressly wherein the sheet determining means includes means for manually designating the manuscript sheet or the insert sheet, and means for automatically reading a mark on the sheet to determine the sheet."

As stated in the final Action, Sato does not disclose the means for manually designating the manuscript sheet or the insert sheet, and means for automatically reading a mark on the sheet to determine the sheet.

It was also held on page 5 of the final Action that "Edmonds discloses expressly wherein the sheet determining means includes means for manually designating the manuscript sheet or the insert sheet (printer 20 may be configured such that the user may specify, through a panel menu 28 the type and size of media in each tray;[0015]), and means for automatically reading a mark on the sheet to determine the sheet (Monitor 26 may include sensors for ... detecting the type of media in each tray)."

Edmonds discloses means for manually designating the sheet, but does not disclose means for automatically reading a mark on the sheet to determine the sheet.

It was held in paragraph 0015 of Edmonds that "Monitor 26 may include sensors for detecting the level of media in each tray, sensors for detecting when a tray is empty, sensors for detecting the type of media in each tray."

Namely, the sensors in Edmonds detect (a) the level of media, i.e. sheet amount sensor, (b) when the tray is empty, i.e. empty sensor, and (3) the type of media, i.e. sheet type sensor for showing Letter size, A4 and so on. Therefore, in Edmonds, the type, i.e. size, of sheet can be specified by the user, but the sensor can not automatically read a mark on the sheet to determine the sheet. The means for automatically reading a mark on the sheet in claim 7 is not disclosed or suggested in Edmonds.

Nowhere in the document of Edmonds discloses or suggests that the mark on the sheet is read to determine the sheet, as recited in claim 7. Claim 7 and its dependent claims are patentable over Sato et al. in view of Edmonds.

In claim 16, it is clarified that an attachment includes a sheet feeding unit for feeding a manuscript sheet and an insert sheet, and first image reading means for reading an image on the manuscript sheet and the insert sheet fed from the sheet feeding unit; and an image forming apparatus main unit attached to the attachment has second image reading means for reading an image separated from the first image reading means, and image forming means for forming the image on a copy sheet. Namely, both attachment and image forming apparatus main unit have the image reading means, separately, as clearly shown in Fig. 9.

In Sato et al., one image reader 200 is situated between an original document feeder 100 and a printer 300. No separate image reading means are formed in the document feeder and the printer.

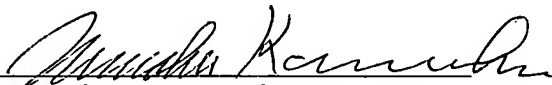
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Edmonds has several sensors, but does not have any image reading device. Claim 16 is not obvious from Sato et al. and Edmonds.

As explained above, claims pending in the application are patentable over Sato et al. and Edmonds.

Reconsideration and allowance are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,

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